



The Competitive Carriers Association

**Rural Cellular Association**

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April 28, 2011

**Via ECFS**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: RM-11592**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 27, 2011, Rural Cellular Association (RCA) sent a letter to the Hon. Fred Upton, Chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Committee; the Hon. Henry A. Waxman, Committee Ranking Member; the Hon. Greg Walden, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications & Technology; and the Hon. Anna G. Eshoo, Subcommittee Ranking Member, in response to the Committee's April 20 letter to Federal Communications Committee (FCC) Chairman Genachowski concerning the public safety equipment and device market.

RCA noted the important opportunity for synergy between the public safety community and commercial wireless market presented by the deployment of LTE networks in the 700 MHz band. LTE in the 700 MHz band represents the first time that commercial wireless carriers and public safety entities will be utilizing the same air interface in the same band. Lack of interoperability across the band, however, will cut off the slew of cost-saving opportunities and technical partnerships presented here. As such, RCA encouraged Congress and the FCC to support interoperability in order to help ensure uniformity and compatibility of technology, realize cost-savings and innovation in the public safety device market, promote partnerships and enhance competition for both public safety and commercial users.

This *ex parte* notification is being filed electronically with your office pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules.

Sincerely,

- /s/ -

Rebecca Murphy Thompson  
General Counsel, Rural Cellular Association